

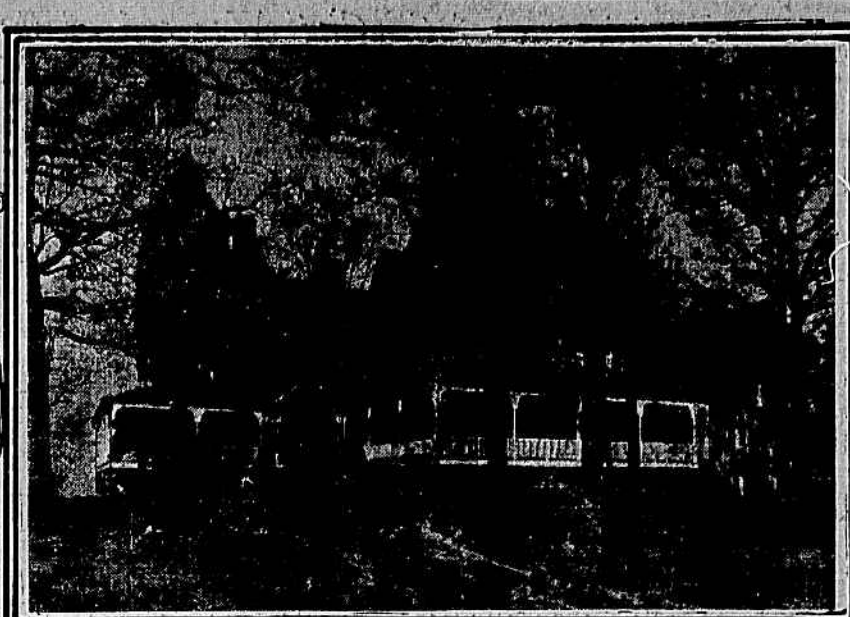
ASHEVILLE IS HOST TO THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE T. P. A.



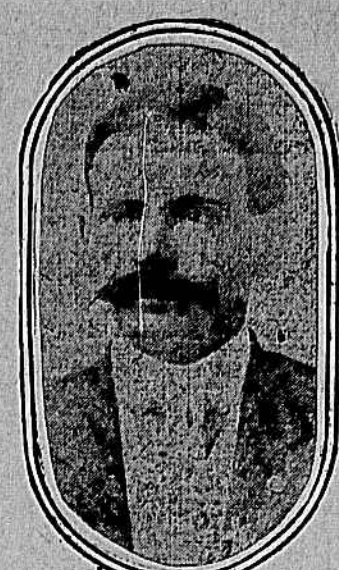
FRED W. HOWIKEN,
of Nebraska, Vice-President.



MARGO TERRACE HALL.



VICTORIA INN, OPENED FOR THE CONVENTION.



CHARLES Y. LEE,
of Asheville, N. C., Fifth Vice-President.



A. L. BYRD,
of Columbia, S. C., First Vice-President.



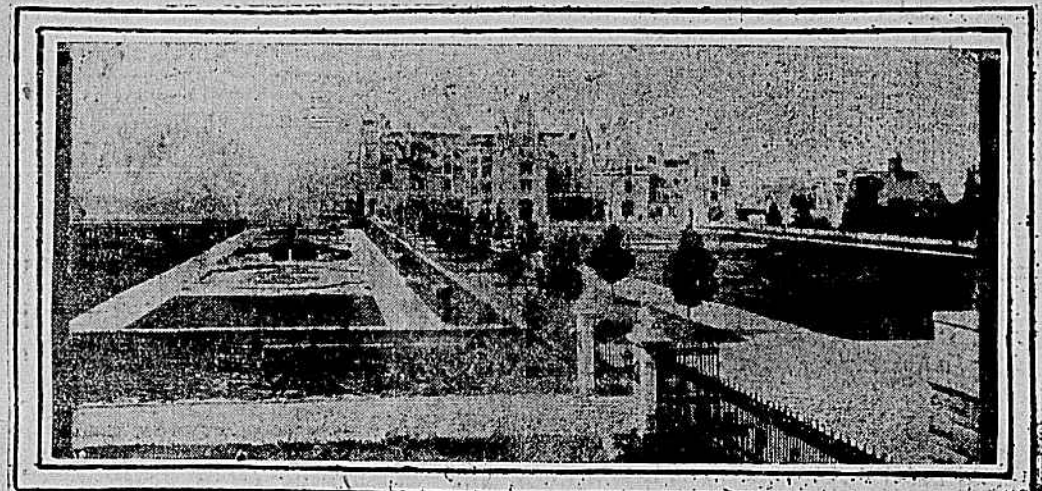
TOXAWAY INN, WHERE BARBECUE WILL BE HELD.



THE MANOR, ALBEMARLE PARK, WHERE WOMEN WILL BE ENTERTAINED.



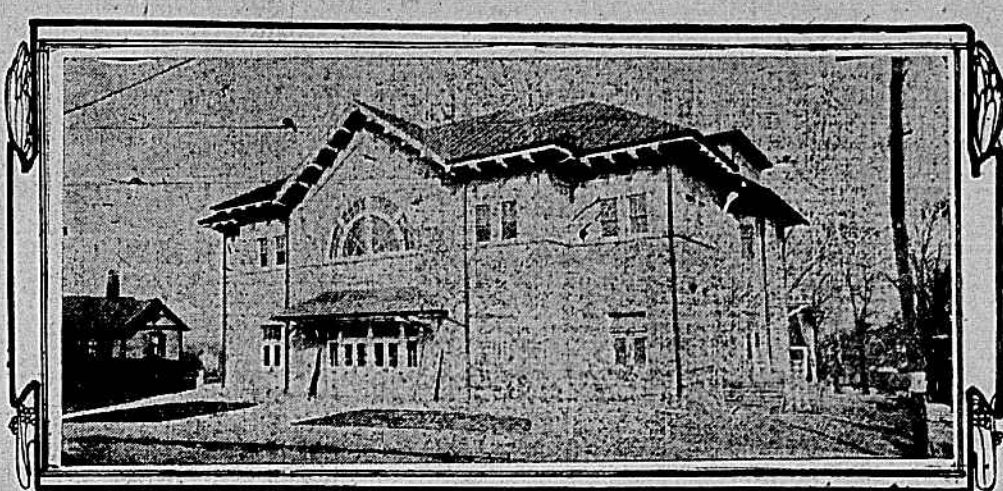
F. W. KING,
of Florida, Third Vice-President.



George W. Vanderbilt's Residence, on
Biltmore Estate.



LOUIS T. LA BEUME,
of St. Louis, National Secretary.



Auditorium where convention will be
held.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 29.—With every business house draped with bunting, Pack Square and the principal streets brilliantly illuminated with strings, loops and festoons of electric lights, a carnival and other places of amusements in full swing, Asheville is decorated as never before to welcome the "Knights of the Grip," who gather here to attend the National Convention of the Travelers' Protective Association, which convenes Monday morning and will be in session throughout the week.

The convention begins at 10:30 o'clock Monday morning with the parade, headed by Governor Kitchen, of North Carolina, and his staff. Following in order will be the First Regiment Band, the four local military companies, officers of the association in carriages, women attending in carriages, a local Italian band and members of the association. Forming in front of the auditorium, the body will march down Haywood Street, up Patton Avenue to Pack Square, around the square, down College Street, up Haywood Street, and back to the auditorium, where the first session of the convention will be called to order at 11:30 o'clock.

Addresses of welcome will be made by Governor W. W. Kitchen in behalf of the State of North Carolina, and Mayor John Campbell in behalf of the city of Asheville. Henry C. Gray, national president, will respond for the Travelers' Protective Association. The session will be opened with prayer by Dr. Albert T. Rowe, pastor of Central Methodist Church. After business sessions in the morning and afternoon the first day will close with an informal reception at the Battery Park Hotel.

Visitors to the convention, of whom there will be about 5,000, will be royally entertained while here, for which purpose the city has set aside \$5,000. The program for the week leaves ample time for those attending to be at every session and enjoy their stay. With the exception of Friday, two business sessions will be held each day, the rest of the time being devoted to social events and trips to points of interest about the city.

On Thursday morning the delegates and their wives will take breakfast on George W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate, the guest of Dr. C. A. Schenck, head of the Department of Forestry. Special carriages will meet all who wish to go to the auditorium at 9 o'clock. The visitors will also be driven over the famous estate.

A feature of the convention will be an old-fashioned barbecue dinner at Lake Toxaway Friday, about fifty miles to the southeast of Asheville, in



LOWER LEAP OF WHITEWATER FALLS, NEAR ASHEVILLE.

the "Sapphire Country," known the world over for its picturesque mountain scenery and waterfalls. Arrangements have been made for 5,000. Six special trains of six coaches each will run to accommodate those who attend. These will leave at 8 o'clock and return in the afternoon, reaching the city at 5 o'clock. An al fresco luncheon has been arranged, which will be served on the grounds by the lake if the weather is favorable; otherwise on the veranda of Toxaway Inn. This dinner is tendered by the city of Asheville.

Nor will the women who are attending be without entertainment. Several functions have been arranged for their benefit. One of these is a card party at the Manor, in Albemarle Park. Another is the women's trolley ride Wednesday, which includes a trip to Overlook Park, 700 feet

above the city, and commanding a splendid view of the surrounding country. Riverside Park, on the French Broad River, and other points of interest.

Wednesday evening is "T. P. A. night" at the Auditorium. As is the custom at these conventions, a benefit play will be presented, the proceeds to go to widows and orphans of members of the association who may be in need.

Virginia Headquarters.
Battery Park Hotel will be Virginia headquarters during the convention for the Virginia delegations. Rooms for the Richmond delegation, numbering about forty-five, were engaged a week ago. Situated on a knoll in the center of the city, less than five minutes' walk from the business section, the verandas of this hotel command a view of the surrounding country from every side, to say nothing of the city. This hotel will also be headquarters of the national officers during the convention. Among the other hotels that will entertain large numbers of delegates are the Swannanoa, which will be national headquarters; the Berkeley, the Manor, Victoria, Glen Rock and Rock Lodge. These hotels can accommodate perhaps not more than 1,500 people; hence the larger number of those who attend—the number is estimated at 5,000 by the entertainment committee—will be housed in private homes. To the end that all may be amply provided for the Board of Trade has been working with the T. P. A. committee, and it is said, the matter of entertainment has been solved.

An information bureau will be open at the Glen Rock Hotel, just opposite

the depot, to aid visitors in every possible way. Similar bureaus will also be open at the Board of Trade rooms, on Patton Avenue, and the old express office, on South Main Street, opposite the Swannanoa Hotel. Each of these will be in charge of competent men, whose duty will be to assist delegates in every way possible.

Many Flags.
Conspicuous among the decorations are 3,000 flags, the property of the United States government, which were used in decorating Charlotte for the Mecklenburg Declaration celebration, and which were brought here as soon as taken down. These are for the larger part used in decorating public

places. Already many have arrived to attend the convention, and to-night the streets are thronged with people anxious for the beginning of the exercises Monday. A carnival has opened up a short distance out, and its grounds are packed. Every vaudeville show in town is playing to packed houses.

Patton Avenue, Haywood Street and South Main Street are made as light as day by over 3,000 high candle-power electric lights. Seven "welcome" arches, covered with variously colored electric lights, have been erected at the entrances to the square and at various points along Patton

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BATTERY PARK HOTEL, VIRGINIA HEADQUARTERS.

Avenue and Haywood Street. Everywhere is seen the motto of the city for the next week, "Welcome, T. P. A.," both on flags and in electric signs, on public and private buildings. The auditorium is a mass of light, with one "Welcome, T. P. A." sign, made of variously colored electric lights, ten by thirty feet. Pack Square is attracting much attention. Festoons of lights have been hung from the top of the Vance Monument, about 100 feet in height, to the various buildings on the square.

Every business house in the business section is profusely decorated, and in many cases store and office fronts look like a mass of bunting. Flags, both national and T. P. A., are seen everywhere.

"Keys" to the City.
The "key to the city," a wonderful affair, big enough to batter down the gates of Troy, covered with streamers and bearing a placard telling what it is and its use, but without giving any information as to the whereabouts of the gates, will be presented to National President Gray by Mayor Campbell at the opening session Monday morning.

Thousands of keys made of rhododendron and tied with blue and white ribbons will be distributed as souvenirs of the occasion. Another souvenir that will be distributed is a booklet with the program and pictures of various points of interest about the city. The paper for this booklet was made for the purpose from a mammoth chestnut tree that two weeks ago was standing on a mountain side.

Every delegate will receive a badge, which will also be a valuable souvenir. The badges this year are particularly handsome, and were made for the convention at a cost of several thousand dollars. The design does not differ materially from that of previous conventions. It consists of a medal-

ion, embossed with an eagle and bearing the words, "20th National T. P. A. Convention, May 31 to June 5, 1909." Suspended from this by a ribbon in the association colors is a pendant, showing in bold relief Biltmore House. All who are hospitable and public-spirited enough will wear badges bearing the words "Ask Me."

The Southern Railway Company has thirty agents and representatives here under Passenger Traffic Manager S. H. Hardwick to assist in looking after the crowds that attend. This includes practically the entire passenger department of the road. The men arrived to-day, and are now located in the Southern's offices here. They will be here through the convention, and their duty, in addition to their regular work, is to assist the T. P. A. committee in any way possible. Some arrangements are also to be made for coming conventions, of which there will be sixteen here this summer.

The post-office will add to its force and also open a sub-office at the auditorium.

The telephone companies, to expedite

long-distance service, will add six operators to the regular force. Three new long-distance booths will also be installed for the benefit of the visitors in the Glen Rock Hotel, information bureau on South Main Street and the auditorium.

Opened for Convention.
Both Overlook and Riverside Parks have been opened for the convention. The former, situated on Sunset Mountain, 700 feet above and overlooking the city, is reached by a winding trolley line up the mountain, furnishing a view of the country around such as can be obtained from few other points. Riverside Park, on the French Broad River, about two miles out, is also reached by trolley.

Many who attend will stay over after the convention adjourns, some of whom will spend several weeks here. Past National President C. U. Howe, of Chicago, has engaged rooms at the Victoria for two weeks for himself and family. Not a few will go from here to neighboring towns to spend more or less time. For weeks the Board of Trade has been swamped with letters from every nook and corner of the country inquiring about the city's advantages with a view to staying over after the convention adjourns.

One feature of the convention, about which very little can be learned beyond the fact that it will happen, is a fight between a badger and a bulldog, which has come to be recognized as an annual event at the convention. Already the local S. P. O. C. has got word of the fight, and has entered vigorous protests. No time or place is set for this fight, but by some wireless system every lover of the sport will learn of the fight and be on hand when it is pulled off.

At this convention a number of constitutional amendments will be presented. One of these provides that "when a member has belonged to the Travelers' Protective Association for one year his indemnity to his beneficiary, in case of his death by accident, shall increase \$250 per year (or \$500 if the convention sees fit) for ten or five years (whichever may be accepted) until it has reached the sum of \$7,500, at which time it shall cease, remaining \$7,500 as long as he is a member, to be paid his beneficiary, in case of his death by accident, this to go into effect January 1, 1910, and to apply from that date to old or present members as well as to new ones."

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